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# The Canadian INDIAN TIMES

(The National Voice of Indo-Canadians)
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## Democracy alive and well in India

Jayaprakash Narayan

New Delhi, March 25:The sublime was mingled with the mundane yesterday under the rising sun at modern most sacred site. In a moving , simple ceremony , the vicotrs of India's most dramatic election dedicated themselves to the spirit of the nation's founder.

The brief rite and the scenes that surrounded it reflected vividly the strangely consonant ambience of intoxication and sobriety of these extraordinary days, when the world's largest democracy has reaffirmed , against great resistance, its overwhelming will to be once again , the democracy that Gandhi envisaged.

In the pledge, which the newly elected members of the parliamentary majority -the Janata and Congress for Democracy parties - chorused phrase by phrase after the spiritual leader of the opposition ,Jayaprakash Natayan they undertook "to serve our people and give our best to the weakest among them".

The crowd of many thousands that had gathered at the Rajghat showed by its outpouring emotion its unrestrained enthusiasm and the joyous hugs that ordinary Indians bestowed on politicians who until this moment had been merely names to them, that a consensus between the governors and the governed had once more been established.

Great cheers went up when 74 year-old Jayaprakash Narayan arrived, pushed in a wheelchair. He joined the front rank of the members of Parliament assembled at Gandhiji's cremation site which was covered for the occasion with an elaborate arrangement of re, white and gold flower petals.

Morarji Desai, 81, was sworn in as Prime Minister by acting President B.D. Jatti in a simple three-minute ceremony. when reporters asked him about his advanced age he said he would quit the post "the day I feel I am not physically fit. I wil vacate immediately, even tomorrow. I am not going to stay a moment longer than I am needed. But what does age matter? It's the spirit that matters".

Mr.Desai was handpicked for the top post by Mr.Narayan and Acharya Kripalani, 89, after confering with some of lawmakers belonging to the Janata Party and Congress for Democracy Party headed by Jagjivan Ram.

As soon as Mr.Desai's name was announced Mr.Ram's followers said they would stay out of the new government, but would support the Janata in Parliament on an issue-by-issue basis.

Without the support of the CFD which won 28 seats, the Janata could have trouble remaining in power.By itself the Janata has 270 members, two short of a majority, although it claims the support of various regional parties holding another 30 seats.

(The New York Times)

## Mrs. Gandhi lost by 55,000 votes

**Mrs.Gandhi polled 122,517 votes and Raj Narain who defeated her polled 177,729 voted . In 1971 she had beated Mr.Narain by 100,000 votes. Sanjay Gandhi was beaten by Ravindra Pratap Singh, a lawyer, who was imprisoned during part of the emergency rule.**

## Morarji Desai sworn in as fourth prime minister

By Haroon Siddiqui

New Delhi,March 25: Morarji Desai, India's new Prime Minister ,says he expects improved relations between Canada and India.

Canada has always been friendly with us", he said in an interview. That good relationship was spoiled to some extent by the outgoing bovernment of Mrs.Indira Gandhi.

Indo-Canadian relations have remained stiffened since India exploded a nuclear device in May 1974.

Mr.Desai said ". there was no problem at all between Canada and India, at least until 1969". That was the year he quit the Congress Party. "I never saw any difficulty in our relationship with Canada .I don't foresee any".

But Mr.Desai said the Government led by him will likely not bring about any significant change in the Indian nuclear policy.

There is general unanimity in India that the country should not accept nuclear safeguard controls. Mr.Desai was a member of the Cabinet that refused to sign the 1968 nuclear apatheid since it prevents threshold nuclear powers from having what the major powers already possess.

Mr.Desai's statement means a prolongation of the nuclear policy of Mrs.Gandhi's government .

He said his government will follow a foreign policy that is "fully non-aligned", one that emphsizes " friendship with all" and uplift India's image abroad.

Mr.Desai is a political right-winger who was not happy with the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty signed in 1971 by Mrs. Gandhi and Soviet chief Brezhnev. It is safe to say that the Government led by Mr.Desai will be less enthusiastic towards the Soviet Union than either Mrs. Gandhi or her father Mr.Nehru ,was.

(The Globe and Mail)

Morarji Desai

## Karunakaran Kerala C.M.

Down south in Kerala Assembly elections also took place along with the general elections. The six party United Front which has a record of 6½ year reign has been voted back to power in a landslide victory winning 111 out of 140 seats in the State Assembly.

The Congress led United Front Ministry assumed office today.

March 25th. K Karunakaran, leader of the Congres legislative party was sworn in as Chief Minister. The following is party standing.

| United Front | |
|---|---|
| Congress | 38 |
| CPI | 23 |
| Kerala Congress | 20 |
| Muslim League | 13 |
| RSP | 9 |
| PSP | 3 |
| Independants | 5 |

| Opposition Alliance | |
|---|---|
| CPI-M | 18 |
| Janata | 6 |
| muslim League(O) | 3 |
| Kerala Congress(Pillai's group) | 2 |

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## INDIAN ELECTIONS

The Indian elections held recently have been a great victory for democracy. Whether it has been a victory for India as well, only time can tell. The peaceful manner in which the elections were held, the fearless attitude adopted by the voters, the orderly and dignified way in which the reins of power changed hands are indeed very creditable for the Indian people.

Mrs.Gandhi, who has done a reasonably good job in recent years as Prime Minister succumbed to her motherly instinct against her good political judgement and supported her allegedly corrupt and power hungry son Sanjay who was one of the primary reasons for her downfall. Another individual who played a key role in Mrs.Gandhi's ouster was the respected Sarvodaya leader Jaya Prakash Narayan.

The Janata coalition has a tough job ahead, the toughest of them being the task of keeping together the hotch potch of parties with divergent ideological commitments. It is not going to be easy for an 81 year old Morarji Desai, who is not that well-known for his ability to compromise, to keep the leftists and the rightists together in the coalition.

Let us hope that the new government will be able to maintain and improve upon the economic and social progress that was recently being achieved in India. We wish the new administration every success.

## Lok Sabha seats in previous elections

There were 524 members in the dissolved Lok Sabha including two nominated members. This excludes the Speaker. Congress party had 355 members, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) had 26 and the strength of the other parties ranged from 24 to three. vacancies at the time of dissolution of the house on January 18, 1977. The following statement gives the party positions in the last three Lok Sabha.

| Name of Party | 1962 | 1967 | 1971 | on 18.1.77 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indian National Congress | 361 | 283 | 352 | 355 |
| Communist | 29 | - | - | - |
| C.P.I | - | 23 | 23 | 24 |
| C.P.I. (Marxist) | - | 19 | 25 | 26 |
| Congress (O) | - | - | 16 | 11 |
| Swatantra | 18 | 44 | 8 | - |
| Jana Sangh | 14 | 35 | 22 | 16 |
| Samyukta Socialist | 6 | 23 | 3 | - |
| Praja Socialist | 12 | 13 | 2 | 3 |
| Republican | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| Other Parties | 31 | 54 | 53 | 64* |
| Unattached | 20 | 25 | 14 | 28 |
| Vacancies | - | - | - | 17 |
| Total | 494 | 520 | 518 | 524 |

*DMK-12; B.L.D.-9; Independent-8; Anna DMK-6, Keral Congress-3; Muslim League-3; Forward Block-3.

Note: In the 1977 elections the Janata Party is the combination of Congress (O), Jana Sangh, Praja Socialist, B.L.D. and Forward Block., with the support of Congress for Democracy, D.M.K. and CPI (M).
The Congress will have co-operation with CPI in West Bengal and Kerala. In Tamil Nadu it will have electoral alliance with ADMK and in Kerala with Kerala Congress. A break-away group of Kerala Congress is with the opposition.

## Statewise distribution of seats

| States | Number of seats | Janata and CFD | Congress | CPI | CPM | Others |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 42 | 1 | 41 | | | 0 |
| Assam * | 14 | 3 | 9 | | | 1 |
| Bihar | 54 | 53 | 0 | | | 1 |
| Gujarat | 26 | 16 | 10 | | | 0 |
| Haryana | 10 | 10 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Himachal Pradesh * | 4 | 3 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Jammu & Kashmir * | 6 | 0 | 3 | | | 2 |
| Karnataka | 28 | 2 | 26 | | | 0 |
| Kerala | 20 | 0 | 11 | 4 | | 5 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 40 | 37 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Maharashtra | 48 | 19 | 20 | | 3 | 6 |
| Manipur | 2 | 0 | 2 | | | 0 |
| Meghalaya | 2 | 0 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Nagaland | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 |
| Orissa | 21 | 15 | 4 | | 1 | 1 |
| Punjab * | 13 | 3 | 0 | | 1 | 8 |
| Rajasthan | 25 | 24 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Sikkim | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 39 | 3 | 14 | 3 | | 19 |
| Tripura | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 85 | 85 | 0 | | | 0 |
| West Bengal | 42 | 14 | 3 | | 17 | 8 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Is | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Arunachal | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Chandigarh | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | 0 |
| DNH | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Delhi | 7 | 7 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Goa | 2 | 0 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Lakshadweep | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Mizoram | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Pondicherry | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 |
| Total | 542 | 297 | 154 | 7 | 22 | 58 |

Seats declared 538
* One each from Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and Punjab result awaited.

*An elephant never forgets*

C.Subram

Chara



Mohan

V.K.Mal

# THEY WENT TO LOK SABHA

C.Subramaniam

H.N.Bahuguna

Y.B.Chavan

Jagjivan Ram

Raj Narain

Charan Singh

A.B.Vajpayee

T.A.Pai

Dr.Karan Singh

Madhu Limaye

## They stayed home

Mohan Dharia

G.S.Dhillon

Swaran Singh

Bansi Lal

Pilloo Modi

V.K.Malhotra

H.R.Gokhale

B.George Verghese

Sanjay Gandhi

## They were elected

Seyid Mohammad
Henry Austin
K.L.Barooah
B.Raghuramaiah
Govindan Nair
Sanjiva Reddy
George Fernandez

## They were beaten

Buta Singh
Raj Bahadur
V.C.Shukla
S.D.Sharma

# INDIA'S FIRST TWO PRIME MINISTERS

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's 1st P.M.

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's 2nd P.M.

## Some election statistics

Six Cabinet Ministers, thirteen Ministers of State and fifteen Deputy Ministers were defeated.

Congress contested for 490 seats

Janata and CFD together contested for 425 seats.

CFD alone captured 28 out of 50 seats contested.

# Mixed Reaction among Indo-Canadians

**India Times contacted some Indo-Canadians to find out their reaction to Indian election results. We get the following responses.**

Mrs. Nandita Bhatnagar, Homemaker, Ottawa:

I like Mrs. Gandhi. India needed some kind of discipline and Mrs. Gandhi brought it. The Janata have no strength of unity.

I feel that Mrs. Gnahdi's son spoiled her chances. Otherwise Indira would have made it. I would much rather have emergencey and the country ruled properly. Now I have my fears that progress will hault. The majority of Indians are going to gain nothing. I feel a bit sad.

Mohinder Bhalla, Ottawa:

Not very good, consider it as a loss. She was doing very well, very useful things.

Nrs. Sheila Bhatia, Nurse, Ottawa

Mrs. Gandhi was very selfish. She was pushing her son. It didn't look like she was running the country democratically, the way she should have. I don't think a country like can be led by Mr. Desai. He may lot of experience. But India needs a strong person to lead the country.

Brij Bhushan, engineer, Ottawa:

I have mixed feelings about it. In a way good, in the sense that democracy is back. In another sense the authoritarian rule of Mrs. Gandhi might have been good for the country. How the new party is going to perform is yet to be seen.

A. Chatterjee, engineer, Ottawa:

Very happy about the results in the sense that democracy has been restored. What I am afraid now is about the future. I am dubious about it in the sense that the Janata Party cannot stay united for a resonably long time since they have such diversified ideologies.

Dr. Asim Chaudhuri, medical doctor, Ottawa:

Very surprising, a change was probably needed. Vert happy that there is a strong opposition this time.

Anand Singh Ottawa.

It is the people's choice. Perhaps Indira was there too long and a change is needed.

Dr. Radhey Singhal, Professor, Ottawa:

Can't still believe it. Never thought of the slightest possibility of Mrs. Gandhi's loosing her own seat. Ploitics is very unpredictable.

India may go through lot of turmoil, instability and uncertainity. I doubt whether Janata will be dynamic enough to lead the country. I wish Indira had come back with less majority that would have taught her a lesson. Overall I am very unhappy.

Mrs. Shyla Dutt, free-lance journalist, Ottawa:

Please and proud that democracy is back. Apprehension about whether the coalition will work.

Radhe S Rungta, economist, Ottawa:

Naturally happy about the results Hope that the coalition can work together and that they will be able to forge a program providing freedom, economic development and social justice. Mrs. Gandhi had amended the constitution which was in a way dangerous for India. If she had been a little more considerate in the methods used this wouldn't have happened. She didn't know how people felt.

Professor Handa - University of Toronto:

It is surprising that Mrs. Gandhi lost despite the resources at her disposal. Her defeat serves as an example to the next leader to avoid a totalitarian form of government. There are serious challenges that the new government faces, particularly economic reforms.

Rita Bajaj - Don Mills:

We now have the green signal to go ahead full steam with blackmarketing, smugguing and corruption.

Ashok Parihar - Mississauga:

The results came as a shock to most people. I thought there would be a minority Congress government, but Mrs. Gandhi's defeat by such a wide margin made the results incredible. On further reflection a change of government may prove healthy. These elections have proved that the people of India are not ignorant.

Veerendra Adhiya - Toronto

We should wait and see what the new government will bring. The Indian voter is intelligent and values his right to franchise. Why Mrs. Gandhi called for an election at this time is hard to say. Perhaps she was confident of success, but some of the issues worked against her. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely said "Congress as a political party should now dissolve since its purpose was achieved in 1947."

K.J. Verghese - Toronto:

Indira as Prime Minister without Sanjay's interferrence would have been very welcome. The prospect of Morarji Desai as our next Prime Minister does not appeal to me.

Mrs. Madhavi - Willowdale:

What Indira did was not completely right but for the first time since we gained independence we have had law and order and far less corruption for the last 20 months. Reformatory measures should have been introduced by our leaders at least two decades ago. I pray that they continue with the reforms that Mrs. Gandhi introduced.

Riten Ray - Toronto:

The results are not very surprising in a democratic set up like India. Indira has paid dearly for her sons actions. Morarji Desai should guard himself against such mistakes as his son Kantilal Desai has already earned for himself a bad reputation while Morarji was Deputy Prime Minister. I congratulate Indian voters for upholding democratic values.

Tapan Das - Toronto:

Some of the programs initiated by Mrs. Gandhi are really good. Hopefully the new electorate will adopt these progressive ideas, but methods of implementation would have to change. India's need of the hour is a strong uncorrupt leadership to instil discipline into our way of life. Economic setbacks under the new government could bring the Congress back to power.

# Commitment to democracy

From India's dramatic election comes one clear message: the people of the world's most populous democracy are determined that their country will remain democratic.

The vote that demonstrated this determination was a test not only of the Indian people's commitment to democracy but also and equally of the courage upon which they can call to back this commitment up. For the choice that confronted the voters was not between a Congress Party government and a coherent, broadly based, political alternative, visibly ready to take over the reins of power. It was a choice between democracy and the authoritarian rule of Indira Gandhi. India chose democracy, defying the risks inherent in the half-truth with which Mrs. Gandhi had defined the election as a contest between herself and chaos.

It is a breathtaking outcome to a contest that began amid assumptions that the overthrow of Mrs. Gandhi and her son Sanjay, the third generation of the Nehru dynasty, was unthinkable. The unthinkable has happened.

It has happened in spite of the handicaps faced by opposition parties whose leaders had been jailed, whose followers had been intimidated, whose communication with the public had been cut off by the gagging of the press and the suppression of dissent.

It has happened in spite of the opportunity that Mrs. Gandhi seized and exploited through 18 months of emergency powers to consolidate here own position, rewriting retroactively any law that proved inconvenient, putting herself beyond the reach of any countervailing power except the one power she failed to recognize - that of an electorate committed to the survival of democracy.

It has happened in spite of-in rejection of-the common belief that the fettering of democratic institutions, no matter how deeply deplored by the middle class of cities like New Delhi, would be a matter of indifference to India's hundreds of millions of rural villagers. Mrs. Gandhi was not alone in this belief. But it was she who staked her political future on it by calling this election in confidence that all her critics would be silenced, all her abuses of democratic traditions and institutions vindicated, by the unthinking adulation of rural India.

Rural India threw her out. And Sanjay with her.

In her own constituency she lost by 50,000 votes to Socialist leader Raj Narain who now emerges from Mrs. Gandhi's jails to play an important role in deciding India's political future as he once emerged from British jails to play a role in the government of Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Gandhi's father.

Among the allied parties of the opposition there are great, in some cases, extreme, differences of ideology and philosophy.

The relative strength of these various tendencies could not be accurately tested by a campaign in which it was essential, if Mrs. Gandhi was not to divide and conquer, that the votes of all opponents of the government go to a single opposition candidate in each riding. In voting to rid themselves of Mrs. Gandhi the voters could not be certain what they were voting for. Their readiness to run that risk, and the uncertainty India now faces, are Mrs. Gandhi's political legacy.

[Editorial in The Globe and Mail]